



USDA Beef Export Verification (EV) Program: Specified Product Requirements for Bison (Buffalo) – Canada and the European Union

1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. bison (buffalo) to Canada and the European Union (EU) under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Program.

2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (slaughterers, fabricators, or processors) of bison, bison products, and bison offal items that are eligible for export to Canada and/or the EU as listed on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) export website. Suppliers must meet the specified product requirements for Canada and the EU under the EV Program through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. The requirements for the QSA Program are defined in *ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

Only suppliers with an approved USDA QSA Program for the EV Program for Canada and the EU may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for Canada and the EU under the EV Program.

3 References

ARC 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures

ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program

Export Verification Programs Additional Requirements

FSIS export website: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/export_information/index.asp

EV Official Listing: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/bevlisting.htm>

4 Specified Product Requirements

4.1 Bison (buffalo) and bison products must meet the following requirements:

4.1.1 Does not contain the following specified risk material (SRM): skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, spinal cord, dorsal root ganglia, vertebral column, excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum, from bovine animals aged 30 months and older; and the distal ileum of the small intestine and tonsils from bovine animals of all ages.

4.1.2 Derived from animals less than 30 months of age. NOTE: This requirement is applicable only for product exported to the EU under the High Quality Beef quota. Refer to *ARC 1040 Procedure* for additional information regarding the HQB quota.

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5 Shipping Documentation

5.1 Identification of conforming product during shipment and delivery must be documented on the shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee). The shipping documentation must:

5.1.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

5.1.2 Contain one of the following applicable statements:

5.1.2.1 "Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada **and the EU**" - This statement is used for finished items that are eligible for export.

5.1.2.2 "Product meets EV Program Requirements for **Canada and the EU** excluding final fabrication requirements" - This statement is used for items that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible for export.

5 Listing of Approved Programs

U.S. suppliers that have an approved USDA QSA Program and have demonstrated the ability to produce products in accordance with the EV Program for Canada **and the EU** will be listed on the *Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs*. **U.S. suppliers meeting clause 4.1.2 will be uniquely identified on the Official Listing.**

6 Responsibilities

U.S. suppliers must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this Procedure, *ARC 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures*, and *ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*.